

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Literacy is key to a child’s success and enlightenment; it facilitates personal growth, independence, and academic enrichment; and

WHEREAS: Children are more motivated to read when the subject matter excites them; books can stir their imaginations and lead to new beginnings; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Black Stallion Literacy Project in Arkansas is to encourage all fourth graders to read books by giving each participating child a hard copy of Walter Farley’s timeless book, *The Black Stallion*, a classic that has inspired the imagination and compassion of generations of readers; and

WHEREAS: Every school in the State that has implemented the Black Stallion Literacy Project has raised the level of language and reading skills in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Students enrolled in the program will be rewarded with a field trip to bring the book to life, an equine extravaganza, “The Arabian Nights” from Orlando, Florida, at the Barton Coliseum on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007; and

WHEREAS: This day honors the fourth graders, who have successfully read the complete book, *The Black Stallion*, and their teachers, who have given of themselves to prepare and equip this future generation of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the day of February 20, 2007, as

#### BLACK STALLION LITERACY PROJECT DAY

across the State of Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2007.

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MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

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CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE